

Message Text

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43

ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 PRS-01 USIA-06 COME-00 /023 W

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R 071145Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 637

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 2598

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, BTRA, SU

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR BLANTON VISIT

REF: STATE 252744

1. VISIT GOVERNOR BLANTON AND PARTY TO SUDAN
NOV. 1-4 PROMPTED HEAVY DOSE SUDANESE HOSPITALITY AND
SUBSTANTIAL MEDIA COVERAGE EVEN THOUGH HOSTS SOMEWHAT
VAGUE AS TO PURPOSE TRIP. GOVERNOR WAS MET, HOUSED
IN GOS OFFICIAL GUEST QUARTERS, FETED, AND DINED BY
KHARTOUM PROVINCE GOVERNOR (AND SSU POLITBUREAU MEMBER)
MAHDI MUSTAPHA AL-HADI, MINISTER STATE PRESIDENCY
FAISAL KIBEIDA AND MINISTER EDUCATION MANSOUR KHALID. IN ADDITION
USUAL ROUND OF CALLS, GOV. BLANTON HAD EXTENDED MEETING WITH
NIMEIRI AND WAS FEATURED GUEST AT LATTER'S NOV. 3
OPENING OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. WITH NIMEIRI GOVERNOR
BLANTON REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED TRADE AND "THE EXCHANGE
OF TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES AND PROJECTS FOR THE
LONG-TERM FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SUDAN," WITH
PARTICULAR STRESS ON TENNESSEE'S CAPABILITIES IN
RIVER TRANSPORT, AGRICULTURE AND HYDROELECTRIC
POWER. GOVERNOR ALSO OFFERED SCORE OF SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR SUDANESE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE.

2. EMBASSY'S ROLE IN VISIT WAS LIMITED TO BRIEFING
AT RESIDENCE NOV. 1 AND INCLUSION AMBASSADOR IN
OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS. FROM THEIR CASUAL COMMENTS IT
APPEARS THAT THE VISITORS WERE PRIMARILY INTERESTED
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IN DEVELOPING FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR AWARD CONSTRUCTION

CONTRACTS TO TENNESSEE FIRMS (INCLUDING ONE INVOLVING GOVERNOR'S BROTHER WHO WAS IN PARTY). THEY SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATION OF TENNESSEE FIRMS IN ITALIAN-LED MEFIT CONSULTING FIRM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW KHARTOUM AIRPORT.

3. LEBANESE FIRM ASSOCIATED WITH MEFIT, WHICH ALSO HAS PERSONAL TIES WITH MEMBER BLANTON PARTY, WAS ACTIVE IN FACILITATING ARRANGEMENTS. IT OPENED KHARTOUM OFFICE DURING VISIT, CAUSING MANY SUDANESE BELIEVE STATE OF TENNESSEE HAD DONE SO. WHILE THIS NOT THE CASE, TENNESSEE OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT OFFICE WOULD BE USED PERIODICALLY AND INFORMALLY ON BEHALF TENNESSEE FIRMS.
BREWER

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